

### Why should I (general public) care about Portland Harbor & the Cleanup?

Numerous studies have shown that the Willamette River between Broadway Bridge and the Columbia Slough – generally known as Portland Harbor - is seriously contaminated with a wide array of heavy metals and toxic chemicals (polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), dioxin, and pesticides.)

Because many areas of Portland Harbor's bed & banks bear a heavy burden of these chemicals and metals, children and families using the river for swimming, fishing, boating or other purposes may be exposed to unhealthy levels of these contaminants. As the cleanup moves ahead, it's important to thoroughly wash your hands and any other part of your body that comes in contact with the river or sediments soon afterward.

### What how does it impact me/family? What kind of risks are posed to (my family/the community) by the PH site?

Expectant mothers, nursing infants and young children are generally the most sensitive to the effects of these chemicals and are therefore the most vulnerable. Small children playing in or near the water are also more likely to put unwashed hands in their mouths, unknowingly eating sediment particles. Keeping our young ones safe in and around the river and helping them to develop healthy habits is our top job!

Everyone who enjoys, plays in, or cares about the Willamette River should be interested and involved in the Portland Harbor Cleanup. Whether you work on or in the river, enjoy swimming, fishing, or boating, or have a spiritual connection to the Willamette, your voice should be heard as cleanup plans are being designed.

We're all in this together. It's important that industry executives, government officials, tribal leaders and the community all "pull on the rope in the same direction" and demand a healthier river we can all enjoy!

### What are the risks to me/family/community?

Because of the contamination, some types of fish found in Portland Harbor, such as bass, carp and catfish have also been shown to carry high levels of certain toxic compounds and metals. Contaminated fish may pose health risks if they are eaten frequently and/or for a long period of time. The local health department is the best source of information for fish advisories in your area.

How will Portland Harbor be cleaned up? How much will it cost? How long will it take?

Cleaning up Portland Harbor and restoring its waters will not be cheap, or fast. And it will remain a working waterfront for the foreseeable future. But we are committed to the idea that Portland Harbor is worth the investment for now and for future generations.

As the cleanup process moves ahead, one of the fundamental principles of superfund is the "Polluter Pays". That is EPA believes those who caused the pollution in the first place should be expected to clean it up. Taxpayers should not be forced to pay for cleanups where responsible parties remain to shoulder the cost.

Portland harbor became polluted over many decades (close to a century?) so it stands to reason that this will not be a quick cleanup. The most important work comes at the beginning of the Superfund program when what's called a Feasibility Study is created to help inform what the final cleanup plan should look like.

The Feasibility study will also contain a series of alternative ways to clean up Portland Harbor. In some cases, dredging or other methods may be required to remove the contamination and reduce risks. There is still some work that needs to be done on the Portland Harbor FS before EPA will be able to make an informed decision on which cleanup path to take.

After carefully reviewing the final Feasibility study, EPA will write a Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan will summarize the cleanup alternatives and propose a preferred path for cleaning up contaminated sediment in Portland Harbor. We anticipate having the Proposed Plan available in 2014.

When it's finished the Proposed Plan will be presented to the public for comments. After reviewing all the comments received, EPA will draft a document, called the "Record-of Decision" or "ROD" which will serve as our final decision on how the responsible parties will clean up the harbor. Because we are not close to that stage yet, it's impossible to even propose a date for when the cleanup might be finished

When will it be safe to eat all fish from PH?

Completely eliminating all contamination in fish that live or pass through the Willamette River and Portland Harbor is an impossible task. Our goal will instead be to reduce risks associated with fish consumption (as much as

possible?). It's safe to say that it will be many years before we see real results like fewer fish advisories and increased opportunity for people to safely eat more fish meals each week or month. Unlimited fish meals is a great goal to shoot for, but that will realistically be a decade or more in the future.

We are committed to making the first big step on the road to recovering Portland Harbor, and making the water and land safer for all to enjoy for all of us and future generations.

Please join our Portland Harbor Cleanup Team!

How do I get involved? Who do I contact for more info: